

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 052300Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2285

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,AS

SUBJECT: ROBERT HAWKE FEELS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS SUCCESS

REF: MELBOURNE 0892 AND 0914

1. AT MEETING AUGUST 2, ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE TOLD CONGEN BRAND AND LABATT THAT HIS TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON "COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER".

2. OBVIOUS HIGHLIGHT WAS DEPT. LUNCHEON AND SEPARATE SESSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL. HE FELT ALL CONCERNED WERE WELL INFORMED ABOUT AUSTRALIA, AND UNDERSTOOD, WITHOUT LONG EXPLANATION ON HIS PART, COMPLEX PROBLEMS FACING HIS COUNTRY.

3. ON TRADE UNION SIDE, HAWKE WAS PLEASED AT FRATERNALISM SHOWN BY PRESIDENT GLEN WATTS AND OFFICERS OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS' UNION, AND MUCH IMPRESSED BY STEUBEN GLASS OBJET D' ART PRESENTED TO HIM AND MRS. HAWKE.

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4. HAWKE NOTED THAT HIS VISIT TO AFL-CIO WAS "MORE

PRODUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY" THAN LAST TIME. HE HAS, WE THINK, A NEW ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY AND MARKED ESPECIALLY THAT THE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY ERNIE LEE OF AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPT.

5. COMMENT: LABATT THINKS HAWKE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY TOTAL WASHINGTON EFFORT. HE WAS MOST CONSCIOUS THAT HIS SCHEDULE WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND ADHERED TO, AT TIME WHEN EVERYBODY WAS SLIGHTLY DISTRACTED BY EVENTS GOING ON IN CONGRESS. HE HAS SPECIAL THANKS FOR CARE TAKEN OF MRS. HAWKE, AND FOR CLOSE IN GUIDANCE BY EA LAB/ADVISOR WALKINSHAW. AS FOOTNOTE TO HAWKE'S BACK TROUBLE, LABATT REPORTS THAT HE IS ENTERING HOSPITAL AUGUST 14 FOR SERIES OF COMPLICATED TESTS.

6. HAWKE IS DISTURBED BY EVENTS HERE DURING HIS ABSENCE. HE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD APPARENTLY ENDED GOOD HABIT, ADOPTED AFTER MAY GENERAL ELECTION, AND WAS NO LONGER CONSULTING HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES. HAWKE SEEMS TO FEEL CAUCUS CONDUCT OF LAST FEW WEEKS IS BAD PERFORMANCE, BUT BLAMES WHITLAM AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, THAN ANYONE ELSE.

7 THIS WEEKS CONFERENCE ON REVIEW OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO BE CHAIRED BY JUSTICE JOHN MOORE, WILL NOT NEARLY MEET EXPECTATIONS OF MOST CONFEREES, HAWKE THINKS, AS ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE LIMITED TO QUESTION OF WAGE REVIEW. HE NOTED THAT MIN. LABOR CAMERON HAD OPPOSED APPOINTMENT OF MOORE AS PRESIDENT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION, AND EXPECTS MOORE TO BE INDEPENDENT OF CAMERON TOWHOM HE OWES NOTHING. (LABATT HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MIN. LABOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CONFERENCE, REFTTEL B).

8 ACTU IS NOW PREPARING ITS PRE-BUDGET REPRESENTATIONS FOR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET ON AUGUST 14. HAWKE SEEMS SCEPTICAL THAT CABINET PLANNERS WILL BE ACCEPTABLY RESPONSIVE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVES DARKLY THAT BUDGET SPEECH ON SEPTEMBER 17 WILL BE "VERY INDICATIVE", OF WHAT HE DID NOT SAY.
BRAND

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